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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,175	12/07/2004	Keith Grundon	AEL-4	5699

Ira S. Dorman
Suite 200
330 Roberts Street
East Hartford, CT 06108

7590

03/01/2007

EXAMINER

IMAS, VLADIMIR

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/01/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/517,175	Applicant(s) GRUNDON, KEITH	
	Examiner Vladimir Imas	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 11-15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (US 5,516,298).

Regarding claim 11, Smith, fig. 2 - 8, discloses a cable management system which includes: a desk 28'; a user module 72 mounted on the desk and including a plurality of peripheral port connectors 50', 51' and 52' for connection to respective desktop user interface devices; a workstation computer 22'; an umbilical cable (not labeled) linking the workstation computer to the user module to provide connections between the peripheral port connectors and the workstation computer; and a releasable mass connector 53' coupled to the cable 55' and arranged such that the workstation computer can be disconnected from the peripheral port connectors by releasing the mass connector.

Regarding claim 12, Smith discloses the workstation computer is mounted on a trolley 30.

Regarding claim 13, Smith discloses the trolley is located beneath the desk.

Regarding claim 14, Smith discloses the user module is releasably engaged with a base unit, which is attached to the desk.

Regarding claim 15, Smith discloses the base unit includes a communication bus 61 having a communication port (not shown) for connection of the bus to at least one remote signal source.

Regarding claim 18, Smith discloses a cable management unit for use with a desk 28' and a workstation computer 22', which includes: a user module 72 adapted to be mounted on the desk and including a plurality of peripheral port connectors 50', 51' and 52' for connection to respective desktop user interface devices; an umbilical cable (not labeled) for connection to the workstation computer and the user module to provide connections between the peripheral port connectors and the workstation computer; and a releasable mass connector 53' coupled to the cable and arranged such that the workstation computer can be disconnected from the peripheral port connectors by releasing the mass connector.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Romer (EP 1217919 B1).

Regarding claim 16, Smith discloses all the limitations except base unit includes a bus connector for connection with the user module such that the workstation computer, which is coupled to the user module, is operably connected to the bus via the respective bus connector. Romer (EP 1217919 B1), fig. 2, discloses a bus connector for connection with the user module 1 such that the workstation computer, which is coupled to the user module, is operably connected to the bus via the respective bus connector. At the time the invention was made, it would have been to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide Romer's multimodal performance for Smith's module units to provide each module being arranged such that a computer on the PC port is operably connected to the peripheral port and, via the respective bus connector, to the bus.

Regarding claim 17, Smith and Romer disclose the base unit includes a plurality of bus connectors for connection with a plurality of such user modules.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant presented claims 11 through 18 in replacement of prior claims 1 through 10, which have been canceled. The Examiner presented new ground of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vladimir Imas whose telephone number is 571-272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

Art Unit: 2839

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

VI
Examiner
Vladimir Imas
2/23/2007



TULSIDAS C. PATEL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER